

Mastering the Art of Biography: The Life of Nova the Stargazer

Learning objective: To analyse and construct a biographical account, identifying the features and chronological structure required to document a person's life.

Read the following prompts carefully. Use your knowledge of biographical features to answer the questions. Focus on using a formal yet engaging tone, temporal connectives, and factual detail.

A biography is a detailed description of a person's life written by someone else. It is written in the third person and follows a chronological order. It includes significant life events, challenges overcome, and the lasting impact or legacy of the individual. Effective biographies often include direct quotes or anecdotes to bring the subject's personality to life.

Word bank: Chronological · Anecdote · Temporal connective · Legacy · Objective · Third-person · Accomplishment · Perspective

1. Explain why it is essential for a biography to be written in the third person rather than the first person. What effect does this have on the reader? (2 marks)

2. Nova the Owl is famous for her study of the Northern Star. Write two sentences that could appear in a biography about her, ensuring you use at least one temporal connective. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast a biography with an autobiography. What is the primary difference regarding the author's perspective? (2 marks)

4. If you were writing a biography about Max the Monkey, why would including an anecdote about his favourite maths puzzle be more effective than just listing his achievements? (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Why is it important to verify facts when writing a biography about a historical figure? (2 marks)

6. What might happen to the accuracy of a biography if the author included their own personal opinions about the subject's choices? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a timeline of a famous person's life. Include at least four key milestones, using symbols or icons to represent their greatest achievements.



Extension challenge: Choose a historical figure you admire. Write a 150-word biographical summary, ensuring you include a hook in the introduction, a paragraph detailing their early life, and a conclusion that explains their lasting legacy.